



Health Care Cabinet:
Business Plan Development Work Group

Monday, August 13, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: *Frances Padilla, Co-Chair; Nancy Yedlin, Co-Chair; Ellen Andrews; Phil Boyle; Bonita Grubbs; David Guttchen; Alex Hutchinson*

Members Absent: *Linda St. Peter; Vicki Veltri; Tom Woodruff*

Welcome and Introductions

Frances Padilla opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes of the June 18 Meeting

The minutes of the June 18 meeting were approved.

Debrief on Health Care Cabinet Work Group Chairs Meeting

Ms. Padilla said that the chairs of all of the Health Care Cabinet's work groups met in July to discuss coordination of their efforts. At the meeting, the chairs agreed to jointly propose a set of health outcomes and recommendations which would help to achieve them. Ms. Padilla said that she would talk with other Cabinet leaders to continue this coordination. Nancy Yedlin said that she and Ms. Padilla had discussed potential outcomes based on public health measures. Bonita Grubbs said that leadership was necessary to help achieve outcomes.

Ms. Yedlin said that the Cabinet should target a few high-level outcomes. Ms. Padilla added that outside support may be needed in order to develop these. Ms. Grubbs said that the Cabinet could play an educational role, helping the public to better understand health reform. Members agreed that public information should be a priority.

Feedback from Members on Summer Interviews

Ms. Padilla asked members to briefly discuss their recent conversations with various health reform stakeholders regarding the work group's recommendations.

Alex Hutchinson talked to Bob Tessier, Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition of Taft-Hartley Health Funds. Mr. Hutchinson said that Mr. Tessier was supportive of the work group's recommendations, and that they should focus on the cost of health care. The members of the Coalition were very concerned about cost and were interested in improving value in the health care system.

Phil Boyle talked to Janice Perkins, Director of Government Relations at ConnectiCare. Mr. Boyle said that Ms. Perkins declined to respond to questions regarding the work group's recommendations. However, Mr. Boyle said that Ms. Perkins mentioned that ConnectiCare has been conducting focus groups with their members regarding value in health care. Ms. Yedlin suggested that the work group could contact other health insurance company representatives to get feedback on the recommendations.

Ellen Andrews talked to Kate McEvoy, Associate Director of Health Services at the Department of Social Services, regarding an application for the federal Health Neighborhoods grant. This grant would help to reduce the cost of care for people on both Medicare and Medicaid (called "dual eligible") through coordination of a variety of health services. Ms. Andrews also said that Ms. McEvoy felt that costs could be addressed by convening payers with a state convening authority.

Ms. Padilla and Ms. Yedlin talked with Jamesina Henderson, CEO of the Hill Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center in New Haven. Ms. Yedlin said that Ms. Henderson described Hill Health Center's efforts to integrate physical and mental health care. Ms. Henderson expressed concerns about the use of the term "free clinics" in the third recommendation, saying that the services of providers are never truly "free". She emphasized the importance of considering cost, and also said that the health care system should focus more on prevention and primary care.

Ms. Yedlin talked with Todd Staub, the chair of the board of Pro Health Physicians. Ms. Yedlin said that Dr. Staub expressed the need to make sure that consumers understand health reform and its impact on them. Dr. Staub agreed with the recommendations, especially in the emphasis on value, which he defined as maximizing quality and minimizing cost.

Ms. Padilla concluded this part of the discussion by proposing a few additions to the work group's recommendations, based on these conversations. She suggested adding language regarding convener authority for payers, defining value based on patient experience, and the integration of physical, mental, and oral health care. Members agreed to these additions.

Deadlines, Deliverables, and Next Steps

Ms. Padilla said that the work group's preliminary report to the Cabinet was fairly comprehensive and that she and Ms. Yedlin would work to convert it from a presentation into narrative form, adding in the items discussed at this meeting. Ms. Padilla said she would ask Lt. Governor Wyman to allow the work group to formally present its report to the Cabinet at its October meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.